

Congressman discusses the importance of the 19th amendment and women's rights

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(Washington, DC)—Today marks the 89th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which mandates that all women have the right to vote. Many generations of dedicated suffragists fought for this amendment, and Congressman Sestak continues to advocate for gender equality through his work in Washington and the 7th district.

“Growing up with six sisters, I have always believed strongly in the need for gender equality in our society, and spent 31 years in the military defending the right to vote for *all* Americans,” Congressman Sestak said. “Leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Paul who labored for decades to obtain a fundamental right should serve as an inspiration to us all to continue working towards equality.”

Congressman Sestak has supported women's rights through co-sponsoring legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill signed into law in January as part of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It strengthens women's ability to oppose pay discrimination through a variety of ways,

including a significant extension of the amount of time women have to object to discrimination. With 12 percent of American's women being their family's chief wage earner, pay disparity not only hurts individual women, but families as well.

Congressman Sestak has also taken other measures to promote equal opportunity for women in the workplace. He has hosted a Women in Business summit and roundtable, and sponsors an advisory committee of professional business women. He has worked to promote equality in other areas as well, including his co-sponsorship of the Women Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act. This bill calls for the equal treatment and services available to our female veterans in the Veteran's Assistance system.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Congressman Sestak was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.